

### CLAIMS

- [c1] 1. In a controller, a method for determining participants in a net within a group communication network, the method comprising:
- sending a message to a communication device, the message being for determining whether the communication device wishes to stay a participant in the net; and
- listing the communication device as a participant in the net if the communication device sends a response to the message within a predetermined time period.
- [c2] 2. The method of claim 1, further including deleting the communication device from a list of participants in the net if the communication device does not send a response to the message within a predetermined time period.
- [c3] 3. The method of claim 1, wherein the message includes information identifying the communication device.
- [c4] 4. The method of claim 1, further including determining latency with respect to the response.
- [c5] 5. The method of claim 1, wherein the message includes a message identifier.
- [c6] 6. The method of claim 5, wherein the response includes information identifying the message identifier.
- [c7] 7. The method of claim 1, wherein the response includes information identifying the communication device.
- [c8] 8. The method of claim 1, wherein the sending includes sending the message to a push-to-talk (PTT) device.
- [c9] 9. In a communication device, a computer-readable medium embodying a method for determining participants in a net within a group communication network, the method comprising:

sending a message to a communication device, the message being for determining whether the communication device wishes to stay a participant in the net; and

listing the communication device as a participant in the net if the communication device sends a response to the message within a predetermined time period.

[c10] 10. The computer-readable medium of claim 9, wherein the method further includes deleting the communication device from a list of participants in the net if the communication device does not send a response to the message within a predetermined time period.

[c11] 11. The computer-readable medium of claim 9, wherein the message includes information identifying the communication device.

[c12] 12. The computer-readable medium of claim 9, wherein the method further includes determining latency with respect to the response.

[c13] 13. The computer-readable medium of claim 9, wherein the message includes a message identifier.

[c14] 14. The computer-readable medium of claim 13, wherein the response includes information identifying the message identifier.

[c15] 15. The computer-readable medium of claim 9, wherein the response includes information identifying the communication device.

[c16] 16. The computer-readable medium of claim 9, wherein the sending includes sending the message to a push-to-talk (PTT) device.

[c17] 17. A controller for determining participants in a net within a group communication network, comprising:

means for sending a message to a communication device, the message being for determining whether the communication device wishes to stay a participant in the net; and

means for listing the communication device as a participant in the net if the communication device sends a response to the message within a predetermined time period.

[c18] 18. The controller of claim 17, further including means for deleting the communication device from a list of participants in the net if the communication device does not send a response to the message within a predetermined time period.

[c19] 19. The controller of claim 17, wherein the message includes information identifying the communication device.

[c20] 20. The controller of claim 17, further including means for determining latency with respect to the response.

[c21] 21. The controller of claim 17, wherein the message includes a message identifier.

[c22] 22. The controller of claim 21, wherein the response includes information identifying the message identifier.

[c23] 23. The controller of claim 17, wherein the response includes information identifying the communication device.

[c24] 24. The controller of claim 17, wherein the sending includes sending the message to a push-to-talk (PTT) device.

[c25] 25. A controller for determining participants in a net within in a group communication network, comprising:

- a memory unit for storing information about participants in the net;
- a transmitter to send a message to a communication device;
- a receiver to receive a response from the communication device; and
- a processor communicatively coupled to the receiver, the transmitter, and the memory unit, the processor being capable of:
  - sending a message to a communication device, the message being for determining whether the communication device wishes to stay a participant in the net; and
  - listing the communication device as a participant in the net if the communication device sends a response to the message within a predetermined time period.

- [c26] 26. The controller of claim 25, wherein the processor is further capable of deleting the communication device from a list of participants in the net if the communication device does not send a response to the message within a predetermined time period.
- [c27] 27. The controller of claim 25, wherein the message includes information identifying the communication device.
- [c28] 28. The controller of claim 25, wherein the processor is further capable of determining latency with respect to the response.
- [c29] 29. The controller of claim 25, wherein the message includes a message identifier.
- [c30] 30. The controller of claim 29, wherein the response includes information identifying the message identifier.
- [c31] 31. The controller of claim 25, wherein the response includes information identifying the communication device.
- [c32] 32. The controller of claim 25, wherein the sending includes sending the message to a push-to-talk (PTT) device.